

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 4, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1242**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin**

February 27, 2009

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An act to add Section 106.3 to the Water Code, relating to water.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1242, as amended, Ruskin. State water policy.

Existing law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water.

This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water ~~on an equitable basis~~, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family. The bill would require *all* relevant state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and State Department of Public Health, to employ all reasonable means to implement this state policy. Those state agencies would be required to revise, adopt, or establish policies, regulations, and grant criteria to further this state policy.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 106.3 is added to the Water Code, to read:

106.3. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water ~~on an equitable basis~~, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family.

(b) ~~Relevant~~ *All relevant* state agencies, including the department, the state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall employ all reasonable means to implement this state policy. Those state agencies shall revise, adopt, or establish policies, regulations, and grant criteria to further this state policy. ~~The state agencies, in determining affordability, shall be consistent with affordability criteria adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.~~ *policy, including establishing affordability criteria as appropriate.*

(c) This section shall apply to water supplies for individuals and not for new development.

(d) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the rights or responsibilities of any ~~publicly regulated~~ *public* water system.